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UPPINGHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Rutland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING

31st December, 1956.

...oOo...

UPPINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956. This Report deals generally with matters within my responsibility regarding Public Health and Preventive Medicine and is presented in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).....	24,735
Registrar General's Estimate of Population.....	6,260
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956....	1,993
Rateable Value.....	£ 35,739
Nett product of a penny rate.....	£ 143

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births - Legitimate	35	44	79
Illegitimate	-	3	3
	35	47	82
Still Births - Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	2	3

	Rate for District.	Rate for England & Wales.
Birth Rate	16.9	15.7
Death Rate	9.7	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	12.2	23.8

These statistics compare very favourably with those for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-
Other Heart Disease	3	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	1
Pneumonia	5	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Other Disease of Respiratory System	2	-
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
All other Accidents	2	1
Suicide	2	-
	35	31

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1956.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Dysentery	62	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	5
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-

Disease.	Under 1	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/64	65 & Over.
Dysentery	1	3	2	2	4	10	8	20	3	4	4	1
Pneumonia		1	1	1		1					1	
Scarlet Fever						3	1					
Erysipelas												1

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Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

Age Groups.	New Cases. Pulmonary M	New Cases. Pulmonary F	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary M	New Cases. Non-Pulmonary F	Deaths. Pulmonary M	Deaths. Pulmonary F	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary M	Deaths. Non-Pulmonary F
Under 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TYPE OF DISTRICT.

The district is almost entirely agricultural.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES. FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health - John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb. The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this district is included.

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor - J.E. Garbett, M.R.S.H.

The following examinations were carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester:-

Throat and Nose Swabs	1
Faeces & Urine	312
Milk	21
Water	31
Miscellaneous	1
	366

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply for the district is derived as follows:-

(a) to Uppingham by the Rural District Council's Welland Valley Waterworks (purchased from the Uppingham Waterworks Company during 1956).
(b) to Lyddington as above
(c) to Thorpe as above
(d) to Ayston as above
(e) to North Luffenham by the Uppingham Rural District Council's deep borehole at North Luffenham (brought into use during 1956).
(f) to South Luffenham as above
(g) to Morcott as above
(h) to Wing as above
(i) to Preston as above
(j) to Ridlington as above

(k) to Belton in bulk from deep borehole at Allexton (in Billesdon R.D.C.) Brought into use during 1956.

(l) to Barrowden in bulk from deep borehole at Tixover (in Oundle & Thrapston R.D.C.) Brought into use during 1956.

(m) the rest of the district, comprising 7 villages, derives its water from shallow wells and boreholes.

Quantity and Quality.

(1) During the year a very big advance was made in water supplies and the bulk of the district is now provided with mains water. Eight villages with a total population of 2,310 were provided with mains supply. Work on the provision of services to individual properties in these villages is still proceeding. Some initial trouble was experienced due to an excessive iron content in the water from the North Luffenham source, but this is less troublesome now that the water is flowing freely through the mains, as more properties come on supply. Apart from excess iron in the water, this supply appears to be good, hard drinking water. Reports on bacteriological analyses are invariably good.

Twenty samples of water for bacteriological examination from mains supplies in the district were taken during the year. All but four of these were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were due in three cases to contamination following the laying of extensive lengths of new mains and initial troubles bringing new supplies into use. These troubles righted themselves in due course. The fourth unsatisfactory sample was due to recent work having been carried out on service pipes to the property from which the sample was taken. This contamination rapidly righted itself and no further trouble was experienced.

It is expected that, during the coming year, schemes to provide mains water to six of the seven villages still without piped supplies will be carried out. When new schemes are complete there will remain only scattered properties in outlying areas still served by shallow wells and boreholes.

(11) There is no tendency to plumbo-solvency in the water supplies, and no action was taken during the year in this respect.

(111) All villages using shallow wells were advised to boil drinking water.

(1V) No shortages of water occurred during the year.

(V) Uppingham

Number of houses supplied from public water mains direct	715
Number of population supplied from water mains directly connected	2,475
Standpipes	-

(V1) Lyddington

Number of houses supplied from public water mains direct to houses	84
Pop	208
Number of houses supplied from standpipes	23
Pop	76

(V11) Information regarding the number of houses connected to the new mains supplies at North Luffenham, South Luffenham, Barrowden, Morcott, Wing, Preston, Ridlington and Belton was not available at the end of the year as properties were then only beginning to be connected to the mains.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following areas are sewered:-
Uppingham
Lyddington
Belton
Glaston
Parts of Preston.

The Uppingham sewage farm is outdated as an efficient sewage disposal unit and constant attention is required to ensure that the effluent discharged is reasonably good, especially as the receiving stream is only small. During the past year the operation of the system was quite sussessful. No complaints were received from the Rivers Board regarding the quality of the effluent or from other persons regarding the sewage farm generally.

The considerable extension of water mains during the year has led to increased water consumption and made the question of sewerage in the villages concerned a matter of urgency. The centres of these villages are compact units which lend themselves to economic sewering, but are most unsuitable for the continuance of the pail closet system of garden disposal, drainage to septic tanks and numerous "sewage dykes" discharging crude or septic sewage direct into streams and ditches.

At the close of the year, the Council's Consulting Enginners had prepared sewerage schemes for the villages of North Luffenham, South Luffenham and Morcott, but no progress had been made towards obtaining the necessary Government sanction to put this urgent work in hand.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number in the district at the end of 1956 (Estimated only).

a) Privies and pail closets.....	790
b) Water closets.....	1,015

Public Cleansing.

Fortnightly collections are made from all properties in the area. Weekly collections are made from Hotels, Cafes and School Houses in Uppingham.

The scavenging work for the district was carried through very well during the year, mainly due to the steady application to their duties of the three men employed. Mention should be made of the fact that none of the men were absent from work through sickness or other cause during the year. This is unusual in arduous and unpleasant work such as refuse collection.

It is impossible to maintain a rigidly regular system of refuse collection when only one vehicle and three men are employed for the purpose. Inevitably, mechanical breakdowns occur and the men take holidayds due to them. When this happens the refuse collection must be adjusted.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council continued to participate in the Rutland County Joint Pest Control Scheme, which continues to work well.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Particulars given here are for all purposes, including particulars given elsewhere in the report.

Total number of complaints received.....	41
Number of defects or nuisances discovered.....	29

Nature of inspections.	Inspections.	Re-visits.
Dwellinghouses	64	23
Tents, vans etc.	8	5
Food premises (including shops)	56	17
Offensive trades	-	-
Factories and Workshops	7	2
Drainage systems	88	24
Sewage plants	63	27
Slaughterhouses	6	22
Meat & Foods	98	-
Infectious disease investigations	38	-
Other purposes	17	29
	445	149

Notices.

Preliminary.	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January, 1956	2	-
Issued during the year	4	7
Complied with during the year	3	6
Statutory action necessary	-	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1956	1	1

Statutory.	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January, 1956	-	-
Issued during the year	-	1
Complied with during the year	-	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1956	-	-

Inspection by the Medical Officer of Health.

Dwelling houses	73
Food premises	57
Shops	65
Dairies and cowsheds	7
Miscellaneous	59

H O U S I N G

In response to a request from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, a new timetable for dealing with the Council's slum clearance programme was agreed. The 84 houses scheduled for action will now be dealt with within 10 years, instead of 15 years, as originally envisaged. At the end of 1956 a scheme for the clearance of seven houses in Queen Street, Uppingham was ready for action early in 1957.

During 1956, much good work was accomplished by the operation by the Council of the improvements grants system, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949. Approval was given to 21 schemes of improvement submitted by owners of houses. Eleven schemes were completed in the year. Other considerations apart, the public health value of these schemes is considerable. Uncomfortable and inconvenient properties have been saved from deterioration and possibly from becoming derelict or slum properties. Bathrooms, indoor lavatories, sinks, modern grates and other conveniences have been installed. In a number of cases, the improvement grants have also ensured the preservation of architecturally interesting and irreplaceable old stone houses which are characteristic of the district.

Inspections of dwellinghouses during the year.

1.	(a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Housing Acts) -	47
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose -	62
2.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	19

Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 5

Post War Housing.

Two houses were completed and occupied by Council applicants in the village of Barrowden. At the end of the year no Council houses were under construction. Six private development houses were completed and occupied and two were under construction at the end of the year.

On 31st December, 1956 there were 35 applications for Council houses on the waiting list. Eight of the applications were from outside the district.

Food.

Milk.

Sixteen samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester, for bacteriological examination. Reports on all of the samples were satisfactory.

Ice-Cream.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. All registered premises sell pre-packed ice-cream obtained from approved manufacturers.

Meat & Foods.

The standards of handling and cleanliness of food offered for sale continues to improve slowly, as the knowledge of, and desire for, hygienic methods takes firmer hold. Much remains to be done to improve the standards of food premises.

Six slaughterhouses were licensed during the year, but were not used to their full capacity : on the average, slaughtering took place on two days of the week in each slaughterhouse.

Mention should be made of the impracticability of carrying out a full inspection of meat slaughtered in the district.

Much of the slaughtering is carried out in evenings and at week-ends (including Sunday). During 1956 it was not possible to inspect more than approximately 20% of the carcases. Against this, no disease was detected in the meat which was seen and the standards of the butchers in the selection of beasts for slaughter is very high. Fortunately, it is the practice to send any animal in any way suspect to the public abattoirs at Leicester or Stamford.

Food Premises.

1. - Number of Food Premises in area by type of business.

Bakehouses	6
Dairies	3
Butchers shops	7
Cafes and Hotels	9
Grocers Shops (including Green grocers etc.)	33
Fish fried	1
Fish fresh	1
Premises registered for sale of Ice-Cream	25

N.B. Certain premises are automatically included under more than one sub-heading, e.g. Cafes and Ice-Cream premises.

2. - Number of premises registered under section 16 of Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Premises registered for sale of ice-cream..... 25
Others..... 3

- Number of dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

..... 3

3. - Number of inspections of registered food premises

..... 28

Educational activities:

No new educational activities were undertaken. Explanatory leaflets (published by the Central Council for Health Education) giving information regarding responsibilities and obligations under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 were distributed to all proprietors of food premises. The distribution of the leaflets was followed by visits by the Public Health Inspector.

Method of disposal of condemned food.

Condemned food is burnt or buried at the Council's refuse tip.

Special examination of stock of food consignment:

..... Nil

Fiftynine tins of various foods were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-52.

There are no premises in the district to which these Regulations are applicable.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

Soon after these Regulations came into force, they were brought to the attention of the proprietors of all food premises in the district and the work of inspection and recording information regarding the premises was commenced. This work was still incomplete at the end of the year, but it was already then apparent that a number of premises fell far below the standards required regarding construction and equipment. Some of the premises are very old and basically unsuitable for their purpose. The cost of bringing them up to the required standards will be considerable.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was necessary during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YOUNG

Medical Officer of Health.

Warwick Lodge,
Dalby Road,
Melton Mowbray.

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